

REMARKS

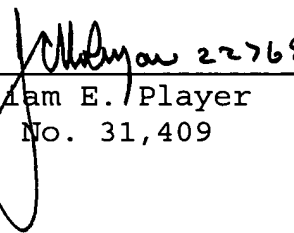
The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is requested in order to delete the multiple dependent claims and avoid paying the multiple dependent claims fee.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS 'TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

3. (amended) The protease according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 2~~, characterized by having one of the sequences SEQ ID Nos. 1 to 8 and 18, 19.

4. (amended) Nucleic acids coding for a protease according to claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 3~~, preferably having SEQ ID No. 9-17 or 20.

5. (amended) Inhibitors, characterized by inhibiting the expression or activity of the protease according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~.

6. (amended) An antibody directed against the proteases according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~.

7. (amended) A method for the identification of inhibitors, characterized in that the activity of the proteases is measured according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ in the presence of potential inhibitors.

8. (amended) A medicament or diagnostic agent containing a protease according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, a nucleic acid preferably having SEQ ID No. 9-17 or 20 ~~according to claim 4~~, an inhibitor characterized by inhibiting the expression or activity of the protease ~~according to claim 5~~, and/or an antibody directed against the protease ~~according to claim 6~~.

13. (amended) A cell line, characterized by not expressing any protease according to claim 1 ~~at least one of claims 1 to 3~~ and/or not containing any nucleic acid preferably having SEQ ID No. 9-17 or 20 ~~according to claim 4~~.